

## CIA Acknowledges Rewald as an Agent

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The CIA has told a U.S. congressional subcommittee that Ronald Rewald was a CIA agent and signed a secrecy agreement, ABC news reports in a program scheduled to be broadcast tonight.

ABC's World News Tonight will be running a two-part series disclosing the results of its six-month investigation into the Rewald case, according to Thomas Goodman, news information director.

Most of the script from tonight's program contains information already reported extensively here. It includes allegations that Rewald's company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, was involved in a number of secret projects.

But it also reports that the CIA has told a House subcommittee that Rewald was working for the agency.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Peyton said this morning he could not comment on the ABC report except to repeat that the CIA already has admitted "slight involvement" with Rewald.

The ABC report does not mention recent developments in the Rewald case, including the fact that Bishop, Baldwin company president Sunlin Wong pleaded guilty in federal court here to mail and securities fraud.

SOME OF THE information contained in the ABC report was taken from a British Broadcast-

ing Co. program that concentrated mainly on the CIA aspect of Rewald's company, Goodman said.

The ABC report quotes Rewald as saying he was a covert agent for the CIA and that he conducted a number of operations for the agency.

It also quotes bankruptcy administrator Thomas Hayes as saying that Bishop, Baldwin was used by the CIA, but that that did not justify Rewald's alleged stealing of millions of dollars of investors' money.

Rewald is quoted in the ABC report as saying the money actually is not missing, but is in several different banks under other names. It does not mention that Rewald was let out of prison here to show investigators where the money might be, but was unable to uncover any hidden cash. Hayes has said that he has traced nearly all of the investors' money. The money went into a Hawaii National Bank account and then was spent by Rewald for his personal things and for company overhead, Hayes has testified.

The ABC report comes a day after a Circuit Court judge cleared the way for Rewald to return again to the Mainland to pursue work pending his state and federal fraud trials.

JUDGE DANIEL Heely said Rewald could go to the Mainland if he complies with the conditions of an earlier federal order allowing him to travel.

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## Using Rewald's CIA Link as Diversion

The strange case of Ronald Rewald has just been given another airing by a national news organization, this time ABC-TV. The report, which appeared this week, includes allegations that Rewald's company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, was involved in a number of secret projects for the CIA and that Rewald was a CIA agent. The most sensational claim, however, was that the CIA wanted Rewald killed to keep him from talking.

The report showed an informant who claimed he got a job as a prison guard here in order to observe Rewald for the CIA while he was incarcerated. The informant then said he was told by the CIA to kill Rewald, but refused. No indication was given that an overt attempt on Rewald's life was ever made.

None of these allegations has ever been admitted or verified, although it has been generally accepted that the CIA used the Rewald firm as a cover or mail drop for some covert operations. Readers of mystery thrillers, of course, would be sadly disappointed if the CIA connection turned out to be so innocuous.

But it is not necessary to reach firm conclusions about such allegations in order to see what Rewald is trying to do: divert attention from the charges that he defrauded investors of millions of dollars. Whatever misdeeds the CIA may or may not have committed, it is not supposed to be swindling people in an investment scheme, and there is no indication that it has.

On the other hand, the president of Rewald's firm, Sunlin Wong, has pleaded guilty to charges of mail and securities fraud, a fact not mentioned in the ABC-TV report.

It is Rewald, not the CIA, who is under indictment, and the charges do not deal with covert CIA operations. Rewald's allegations about the CIA are a smokescreen intended to obscure that fact. Even if all of them were true, they would not absolve him of responsibility for the crimes of which he is accused.